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19 MAR 1968

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Copy 6 of 11

14 March 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Critique for OXCART Mission Number BX6856

1. Mission critique was conducted in the OSA Control Center at 1330 hours, 13 March 1968.

2. Mission Data:

- a. Mission Number: BX6856
- b. Date Flown: 8 March 1968
- c. Area of Operation: North Vietnam
- d. Mission Success: Successful
- e. Pilot's Name: [REDACTED]
- f. Aircraft Number: 127
- g. Primary or Spare Flown: Primary
- h. Takeoff Time - Planned: 0230Z
Actual: 0226Z
- i. Landing Time - Planned: 0630Z
Actual: 0627Z
- j. Time Enroute - Planned: 4+00
Actual: 4+01
- k. Departure Base: Kadena Air Base
- l. Landing Base: Kadena Air Base
- m. Equipment:

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(2) Spare: Same as primary.

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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MORI/CDF

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3. Operations;

- a. Mission Generation & Operational Support: Satisfactory.
- b. Plans: Route (Actual vs. Planned): Satisfactory.
 - (1) Total INS Nav Time: 4:23 Hours
 - (2) INS Terminal Error: 3.8 Nautical Miles
 - (3) INS Spec Error: 9.9 Nautical Miles
- c. Tactics (Planned vs. Actual): As briefed.

4. Weather:

- a. Forecast vs. Actual: As briefed.
- b. Observed Cloud Condition:
 - (1) Pilot reported CAT II South of DMZ. CAT IV in North Vietnam. Second pass CAT III.
 - (2) Photography: 60 percent overall cloud cover. CAT II to clear South of DMZ.
- c. Comments: Slightly worse than briefed at DMZ.

5. Materiel:

- a. Aircraft General: Satisfactory.
- b. Aircraft Systems: Satisfactory.
 - (1) Comments: SYSTEM VI recorder ran fast.
- c. Camera Systems:
 - (1) Quality of Take: Satisfactory
 - (2) Resolution: Good
 - (3) Camera Operation: Normal

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6. Intelligence:

a. Target Coverage:

(1) Portions of Laos, Cambodia and the South Vietnamese-Cambodian border were covered on cloud-free photography. Nine bonus targets were obtained in Laos and four bonus targets were obtained in Cambodia. No useable photography of North Vietnam was obtained due to cloud cover.

(2) This mission was designed and flown primarily to obtain coverage of the high-interest area around the DMZ and Khe Sanh.

b. Hostile Reaction: The mission aircraft was tracked by the ChiCom Radars for 13 minutes and a distance of 436 NM.

c. Significant Findings: None.

d. EWS Activations: None.

e. Take Movement:

(1) Photography: Satisfactory.

(2) ELINT: Satisfactory.

7. Communications:

a. Message Traffic: Satisfactory.

b. [REDACTED] Satisfactory.

c. UHF/HF Commo: Satisfactory.

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8. Significant Actions Taken:

The Deputy for Operations requested that, commencing with the next critique, the Deputy for Materiel be prepared to brief the date specific pieces of equipment were last used on an operational mission.

9. Outstanding Actions Required:

a. Determine why 15-cycle noise on SYSTEM VI tape abruptly stopped at 0430:28Z (Avionics Division).

b. Investigate reason SYSTEM VI recorder ran fast on this mission (Avionics Division).

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Colonel, USAF
Chief, OXCART Division, Operations, OSA

OXC/O/OSA [] pm

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